

Losing control:

Women's hoops are on a
downslide, 8

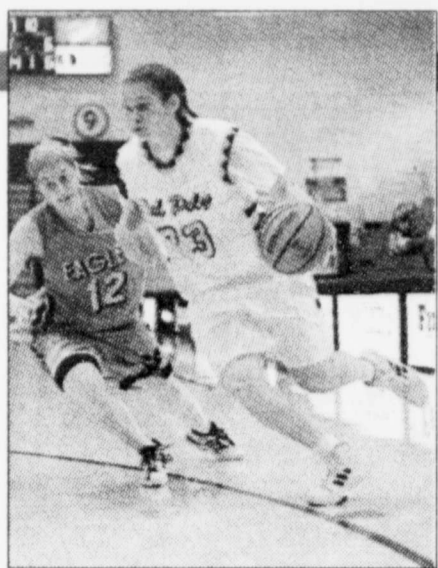
Virtual blueprint:

Program enhances plans, 3



High: 60° / Low: 45°

For extended weather forecast,
see **Daily Dose**, 2



Mustang

DAILY

Tuesday, January 9, 2001

Volume LXV, Number 61, 1916-2001



ADAM JARMAN/MUSTANG DAILY

The canopy for the Cal Poly Theater is designed to unify it with the Performing Arts Centers and extend the lobby. Currently, the lobby space is too small to hold an audience before a show and during intermission.

Campus construction continues after vacation

By Adam Jarman

MUSTANG DAILY EDITOR IN CHIEF

From landscaping to lighting, several campus construction and renovation projects were underway during winter break. The most noticeable of these projects is the construction of the canopy over the main entrance to the Cal Poly Theater.

Erection of the new covering began Dec. 11 and should be complete in February, said Bonnie Lowe, project information coordinator for Facilities Planning. She said the purpose of the new stainless steel canopy is to create a visual connection between the theater building and the Performing Arts Center.

"It's just a way to tie the two buildings together," Lowe said.

Project Manager Greg Lampman said there is another reason for the new covering.

"It actually has a greater purpose," he said. "Really, the driving force was that the lobby for the little theater is too small to handle the amount of people that can sit in it."

He said that this canopy is considerably larger than the old one and will provide a shelter for people during intermissions or before a performance.

Lampman said other projects around the theater included new pathways, the removal of stairs and a new sloped grass stage area.

The addition of the new canopy was not part of the original PAC plan and has been in progress for quite a while.

"It has had a hard life," he said.

The original canopy was removed last summer, and the project has gone through several different design

see **THEATER**, page 6

Students influence CSU policy making

By Karin Driesen

MUSTANG DAILY NEWS EDITOR

Associated Students, Inc. President Sam Aborne and Cal Poly President Warren Baker are two Cal Poly representatives helping to shape the way students participate in the development of new California State University system and campus policies.

"There's no where it's guaranteed that students have a say," Aborne said. "The California State Student Association (CSSA) has been trying to get students the right to be at the table, not just a privilege."

CSSA, an organization of which Cal Poly is a member and that represents about 370,000 CSU students, created a document over summer outlining the students' role, Aborne said. CSU Chancellor Charles Reed then formed this committee, officially called the Advisory Committee on Student Participation in Policy Development.

The committee includes three campus presidents, two vice presidents for student affairs and five student representatives from various campuses.

The committee has already met once and started planning for its recommendations to the chancellor. It will meet again on Jan. 23 and will likely draft a policy recommendation soon after that. The CSU trustees would then adopt it as an executive

see **POLICY**, page 6

Campus police get new tracking system

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard

MUSTANG DAILY MANAGING EDITOR

At Cal Poly, students have fun. Sure, they go to class and work, but they also have parties, hang out at the bars downtown and go on weekend trips. Especially on long weekends, escaping small town San Luis Obispo is a common practice for students looking for a good time.

Sometimes, however, in the rush to leave town, students forget to tell someone where they are going and when they are coming back.

"It's fairly common that someone will take off for the weekend and forget to tell their roommate," said University Police Chief Tony Aeilts.

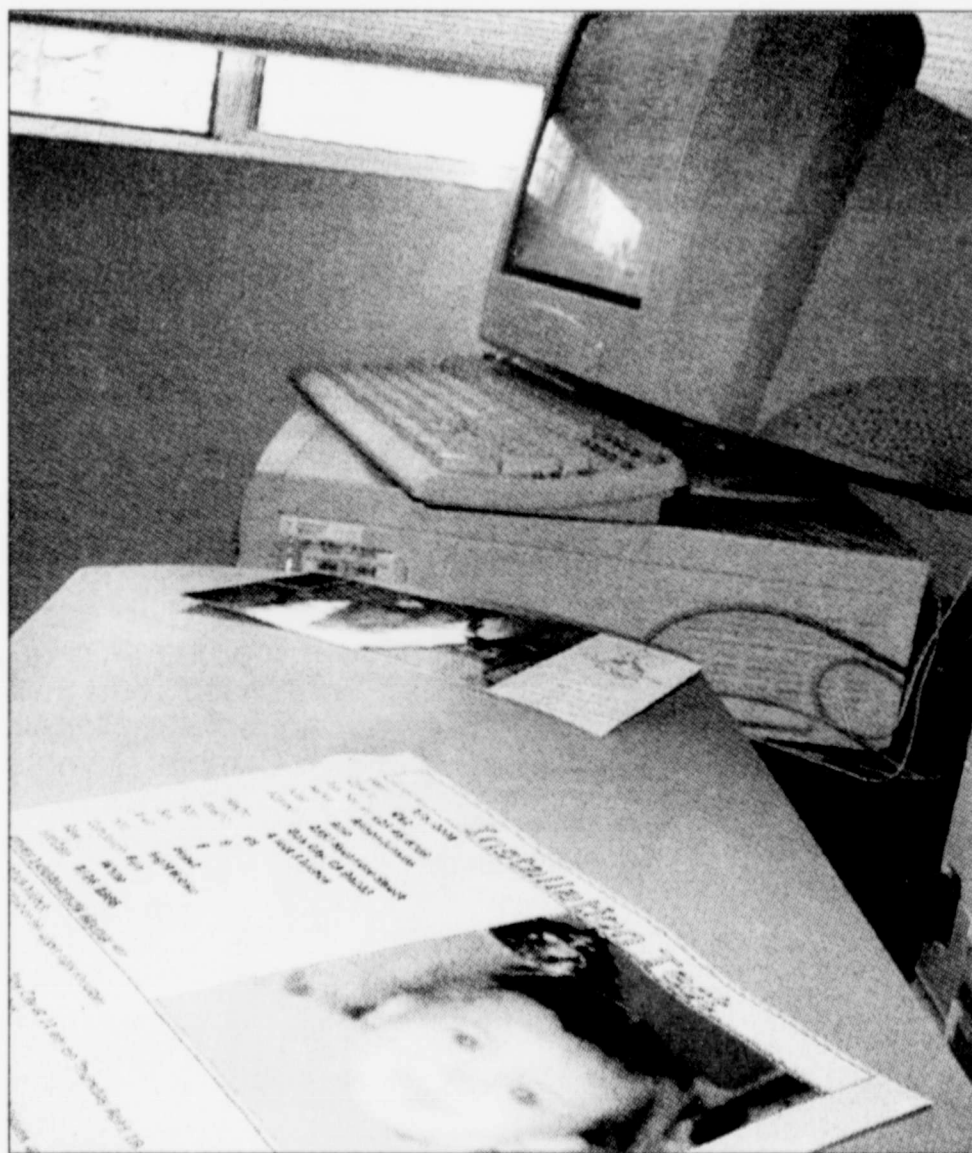
As roommates and parents get worried about the missing student, they call the University Police to file a missing persons report.

"Ninety-nine point five percent of the time, (the student) just didn't mention it to anyone," Aeilts said.

With the installation of the University Police's new TRAK (Technology to Recover Abducted Kids) system, the missing student can be found quickly, eliminating the worry that arises when students just disappear for a couple of days.

TRAK is a system used by police and law enforcement agencies across the nation to find missing people. The system is very user-friendly, said Fred Mills, communication and records coordinator.

Basically, University Police will scan a picture of a person into its computer, enhance it and have the ability to create a full-color, high-resolution wanted poster or missing persons flier. The image can be sent to any fax machine or computer



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

The new TRAK system used by University Police can instantly send pictures and descriptions of missing persons to other agencies.

that is also hooked up to the system. TRAK is organized into groups, so that with a click of a button, police can transfer the image to a grouping of highway patrolmen, government agencies or even media.

In the case of a student who has left for the weekend without telling anyone, Aeilts said that police working on the highways could be notified to watch for the student.

"TRAK could send out information to all the police agencies along

101," he explained. All the police units surrounding San Luis Obispo would immediately have a picture of the missing students and be able to recognize them should they drive by.

Another example of the system in use concerns suspicious people on campus, Mills said. The University Police could take a picture of the suspicious person and, using the TRAK system, immediately create a flier to send out to all

law enforcement agencies in the area.

"People have the ability to have this written record," he said.

While TRAK may seem similar to e-mail, e-mail is slower when dealing with missing people and is often not sent to the correct person, according to a press statement issued by University Police.

Aeilts began working to bring the system to Cal Poly approximately eight months ago after observing how well it worked for other police agencies.

The creation of TRAK by a non-profit agency called Social Tech was in response to the Polly Klaas abduction and murder case that occurred in the city of Petaluma in 1993.

Regarding this case, Aeilts said that radio communication problems could have prevented the police in the area from catching the perpetrator. Dispatchers in the area were on different radio frequencies and did not receive complete information about the missing girl, Aeilts said. Consequently, the officers from a neighboring jurisdiction stopped the perpetrator and then let him go, Aeilts said.

If the TRAK system had been in use at the time, the police might have been able to quickly distribute a flier of the wanted suspect instead of relying on radio frequencies.

Mills said the TRAK system would have been helpful in the case of the four horses that were stolen from Cal Poly stables in late September.

"If we had this technology at the time, we could have created fliers

see **TRAK**, page 6

*daily
dose*

TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 7:12 a.m. / Set: 5:09 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 5:16 p.m. / Set: 7:04 a.m.

TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

Low: 2:26 a.m. / 2.37 feet

High: 8:41 a.m. / 7.02 feet

Low: 4:07 p.m. / -1.75 feet

High: 10:50 p.m. / 4.14 feet

5-DAY FORECAST



TUESDAY

High: 60° / Low: 45°



WEDNESDAY

High: 66° / Low: 46°



THURSDAY

High: 64° / Low: 45°



FRIDAY

High: 61° / Low: 42°



SATURDAY

High: 62° / Low: 41°

Mustang Daily ...

If you printed a newspaper, we'd read it.

Israelis reject Clinton's proposal

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israelis turned out in force Monday against the concessions required by President Clinton's Mideast peace plan, surrounding the high stone walls of Jerusalem's Old City to protest a proposal to cede its disputed holy site.

"Jerusalem, I pledge my allegiance to you," banners and light projections on the walls declared, looming over a crowd of at least 100,000 that included many wrapped in or waving Israel's Star of David flag. Thousands of police mobilized to keep order, and the guardian of an Islamic shrine at the site, fearing an incursion by the demonstrators, denounced the rally as "provocative."

The chief Palestinian negotiator, meanwhile, objected to efforts to formulate a "declaration of principles" that would be based on the Clinton formula and guide future talks.

"We will not accept any kind of pressure," negotiator Saeb Erekat insisted, a day after Clinton urged the Palestinians to compromise and not hold out for the impossible. Erekat said United Nations resolutions calling for an Israeli withdrawal from war-won land and a return of Palestinian refugees must remain the basis of talks.

In Cairo, a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian security officials with CIA chief George Tenet broke up without result, Palestinian officials said. The Palestinians had demanded that in exchange for a resumption of security cooperation, Israel lift its blockade of Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel refused, the Palestinians said.

In the Gaza Strip, a 34-year-old Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire close to the Netzarim junction. The army said soldiers opened fire because the man carried a "suspicious" bag and came too close to the soldiers.

A clash between stone-throwing Palestinians and Jewish settlers at the West Bank village of Hares left a 27-year-old Palestinian dead. Palestinians said he was shot in the chest in a confrontation that started with villagers stoning a settler's car.

Gunmen ambushed an Israeli car in the West Bank, north of Jerusalem, hitting a 12-year-old passenger in his thigh and elbow, settler spokesman Yehoshua Mor-Yosef said. The army confirmed the attack.

More than three months of Israeli-Palestinian violence has killed 362 people — most of them Palestinian.

Clinton was sending mediator Dennis Ross to the region today for separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Clinton, pressing for at least an understanding before he leaves office Jan. 20, has proposed that Israel accept a Palestinian state in 95 percent of the West Bank and all of Gaza.

Israel would cede control over the Old City hilltop shrine revered by Muslims and Jews, and in exchange the Palestinians would drop a demand that nearly 4 million Palestinian refugees and their descendants be granted the right to return.

The hilltop, a 36-acre walled compound in the heart of the Old City, is

known to Muslims as Haram as-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary. Muslim tradition holds the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven from the spot.

The area also is the most sacred site in Judaism, as the spot where the

Azulai said. "We thought before we could live in cooperation. They could shoot from Temple Mount like they shoot from Beit Jalla."

Young people came by bus from towns across Israel and West Bank settlements, many walking into the Old City behind leaders waving Israel's blue-and-white flag.

Police on foot and horseback forced back hundreds of Palestinians at the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City's Muslim Quarter, keeping the two sides apart.

Initial reports of violence were limited to some stone-throwing and a brawl between Jews and Palestinians that injured three Palestinians. The rally stretched into the night, with speeches by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Police blocked protesters' plans to link hands around the Old City, barring them from the walls around the Muslim and Christian quarters. Barricades barred entrances to the Arab neighborhoods.

It was hawkish Likud opposition leader Ariel Sharon's Sept. 28 visit to the hilltop compound that sparked the near-daily Israeli-Palestinian violence that persists today. Sharon now is running far ahead of Barak, a moderate, for Feb. 6 elections.

"See who is coming, the next prime minister," merchants chanted Monday as Sharon toured a market in Jerusalem, reaching across counters to shake hands.

"We will not accept any kind of pressure."

Saeb Erekat

Palestinian negotiator

biblical Temples once stood.

Monday's rally was called by the immigrants party of Natan Sharansky, which pulled out of Barak's government last year in protest of its peace concessions.

"I hope Barak is receiving this message," Jerusalem's hard-line mayor, Ehud Olmert, said in the midst of the fervent, shouting crowd.

Many of those present were from the religious right, which has long opposed the peace process, but there were exceptions: Geula Azulai, a 50-year-old woman in jeans among a sea of long skirts, came from Gilo, a Jerusalem neighborhood on contested land, to condemn a peace process she once supported.

That support ended with the fire-fights with the Palestinian community next door, Beit Jalla, Azulai said.

"Now we discovered the truth,"

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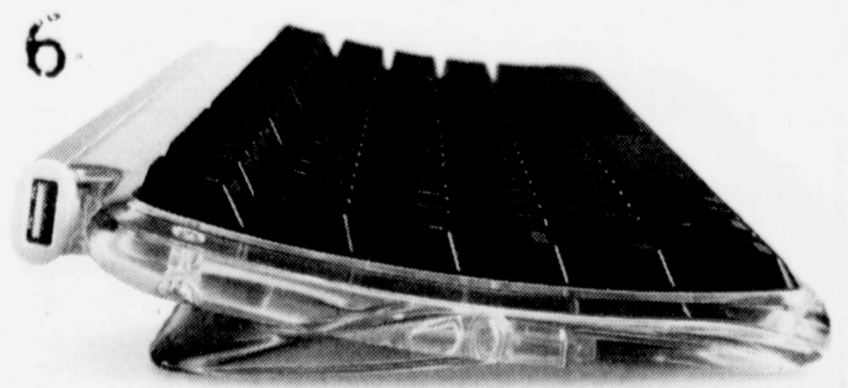
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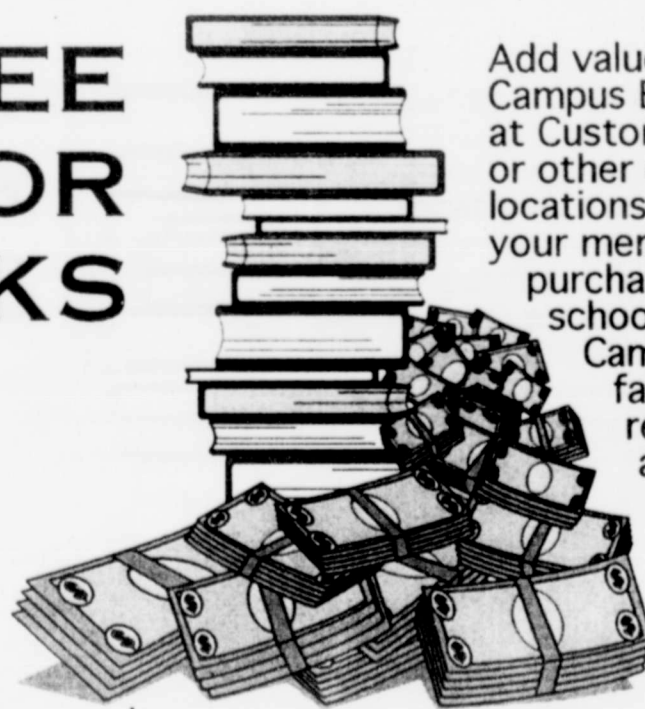
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Virtual reality technology comes to campus

By Robin Nichols

MUSTANG DAILY ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

For the first time in 10 years, Darric McCormick feels like he is able to walk again.

After a diving accident, architecture senior and former contractor McCormick now uses a wheelchair to get around, but the newly-acquired Immersadesk allows him to virtually use his legs again. The program lets architects and designers walk inside their own plans, in a 3-D environment.

"For me, it's a sense of accomplishment," he said. "It's the same as when I was a contractor, and I could see the phases."

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from Pacific Bell, Cal Poly is able to offer undergraduates use of an Immersadesk, an educational program. Cal Poly is the first university to offer this program to students below the graduate and research level.

The donation came from a fund at Pacific Bell that is geared toward enhancing education.

"(Pacific Bell) has a charitable trust for education," said Eric Johnson, executive director of external affairs for Pacific Bell. "We support innovative use of technology, and that made the funding a good idea."

The funds for the remainder of the \$100,000 purchase price came from a variety of sources. Cal Poly was given a discount from FakeSpace, the Immersadesk manufacturer. There was also a Poly Plan grant and a donation from the computer science department, said Tom Fowler, a professor of architecture.

The Immersadesk creates the 3-D experience while the user is wearing glasses, through which the design is projected. Pinch gloves allow the user to pick up and move items in the design.

"As you're looking at the (design) being projected through the stereoscopic glasses, it is surrounding you completely," Fowler said. "It's the equivalent of holographic projection, with the hologram jumping past you and surrounding you."

This full immersion lets designers pick up on problems before the construction stage of a project.

"There's window heights, the sizes of columns and beams that look good on paper, but once immersed, the dimensions are too big or take away from (the) interior," McCormick said. This allows users to walk through a completed building before anyone steps onto the lot, he said. This eliminates some changes once construction has begun.

Since there is only one Immersadesk available at Cal Poly,



COURTESY PHOTO/DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Sigurd Meldal, computer science department chair, collaborates with architecture senior Darric McCormick (wearing 3-D stereoscopic glasses) to navigate through McCormick's design project using the ImmersaDesk.

the machine will not be available for individual class use. It is being used for research and is still being used to test how people benefit from and interact with the machine. The Immersadesk is being held in building 14, room 232.

In the future, Fowler said there are going to be many opportunities for students in regard to programs like Immersadesk.

"We're looking for more funding to have more of a range of low to medium uses of virtual reality," he said. "Hopefully we'll get money for another Immersadesk and a public display system."

There are also plans for an "Immersavirtualization Research Center" on campus that would pull

together the department of architecture and computer science, as well as the Immersadesk technology. Fowler said he hoped the center would be built within the next five years. He hopes to collaborate with other disciplines in the coming years.

"Immersive education can go far beyond the applications of architecture. It is a far more powerful tool than we thought," he said.

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Ignorance taints perception of homeless, needy

There I was, sitting in the diner of a train station in Lisbon waiting for my overnight departure to Madrid. I was trying to enjoy a slice of processed beef between two stale, off-white buns, when three individuals sat at the table adjacent to mine. They were young, probably college students. The three amigos were excited; they probably had just arrived in Europe. School must have just released them from bondage and the idea of experiencing this glorious continent was fresh in their heads as they delved through their travel guides – the bibles of the excursionist.

The conversation between my companion and myself had grown enervated, so I curiously listened in on their jabber. They were discussing the beggars they encountered in Toronto. This interested me. One blathered about how he likes to shake the loose change in his pockets when he walks by “bums” and tell them how he has no money to spare. I stopped in mid-bite, appalled by how much humor this person found in poverty.

Michael Deem

Then, in his crowning moment, he remarked soberly with a touch of aversion, “Working never crosses their minds. Why don’t they just get jobs?”

You see, this person, like many Americans, is guilty of blatant ignorance. We live in a capitalistic nation. We are trained to be staunch, individualistic workhorses, bettering our own situations and excelling in our careers. This, naturally, creates competition.

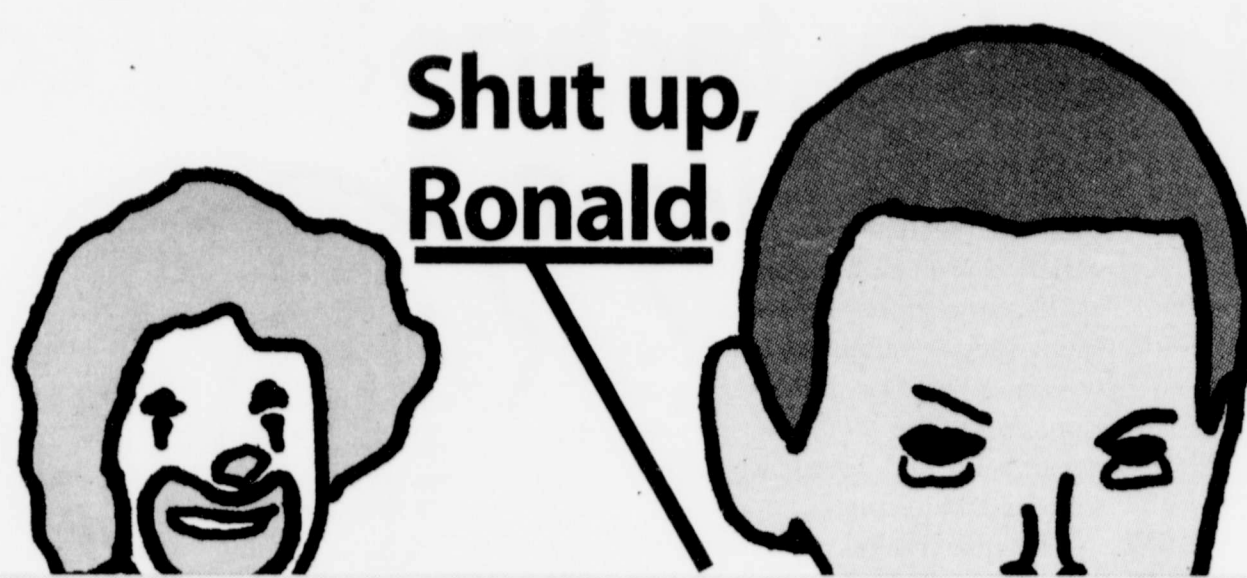
For example, Bob is an engineering major. He wants to do the best he can to secure a great job after graduation. He is competing with many other engineering majors across the country. Not all of them will get their jobs. Some, perhaps those who don’t have stellar academic records, will get pushed down the economic ladder and may have to settle for something less desirable. At the ground level, the lower class is born. By remaining capitalistic, we will continue to push others down this ladder. If someone moves up, someone must move down. Unfortunately, this means our economic system helps create the poverty, not necessarily the person’s absence of will to work. Some call the impoverished lazy, but that is a ridiculous assertion. In fact, I’d like to know just how anyone expects a homeless person to get hired without hassles.

When you go to a job interview, you know you must make a good impression. You’ll dress up nice and neat, make sure you are articulate and show that you are the right person for the job as opposed to the other applicants. How do you expect an individual without nice clothes or simple hygienic implements to get hired with ease? If we are so turned off by the homeless, can we honestly expect an employer to feel otherwise?

There seems to be a lack of awareness of the poverty problem in the United States and a lack of compassion often showed by its citizens and government. When we pass someone in need, can we not at least offer him or her some help? The majority of us can easily hand over the \$5 bill in our pocket and just cruise over to the ATM to pull out another \$20 for ourselves. It is not the case with the homeless.

Please, give. Put a little faith in the needy. Regardless of where your contribution goes, keep in mind that you made an honest effort to help someone who maybe couldn’t help themselves. I promise you won’t be sorry.

Michael Deem is a philosophy junior.



THIS CARTOON WAS CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF HUMOROUS CONTENT.

Can you do better? If you are interested in drawing for Mustang Daily, contact Ryan Miller in building 26, room 226, call 756-1796 or e-mail mustangdaily@hotmail.com.

Advertising isn't free speech

Free speech is one of the most ambiguous and hotly contested issues in the United States. The very mention of those two words can evoke the most basic of emotions in people. Free speech arguments tap into ideas of our nation and our liberty, of moral decline and decay and the possibility of horrible futures in which the human mind is imprisoned, unable to

Commentary

freely express thought and emotion. We, as Americans, believe in free speech. Unfortunately, we, as Americans, don't really understand free speech.

The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear cigarette companies' challenge of a federal appeals court decision to uphold Massachusetts' strict tobacco advertising regulations. Any legal matter involving the regulation of any type of media automatically dredges up free speech arguments. Advertising, however, is a bit different.

The regulation banned tobacco advertisements, particularly billboards, from within 1,000 feet of elementary and secondary schools and public playgrounds. Cigarette retailers are also required to keep tobacco products out of public reach and post any tobacco advertising in the store above the eyeline of most children.

The reasoning is obvious. Posters glorifying smoking have no business being anywhere near places where the majority of the population is children. Massachusetts, like many other states, is attempting to cut

tobacco use by minors.

Movie companies have graciously bent to similar requests and demands. Several studios have eliminated showing previews for R-rated movies before movies geared toward younger audiences.

Tobacco companies argue that it is their right to advertise wherever they want. They say that if their promotions are truthful, no one can tell them how or where to advertise. After all, Camel cigarettes already had to abandon its cartoon mascot, Joe Camel. What next? Putting a health warning from the surgeon general on every carton?

The problem lies in different ideas of freedom. Advertising is not free speech, it is paid speech. If I own a publication, I can decide what advertising I will or will not allow to run. I may be biased. I may be unfair. I may be completely wrong, but it's my prerogative to decide.

Similarly, I can't just construct a billboard in my backyard, advertising whatever I want. There are zoning regulations and restrictions against such things as visual pollution.

Cigarette companies that want to advertise near elementary schools are wrong. Such actions are akin to promoting bars or stripclubs in front of toy stores or ice cream shops.

The tobacco industry is not guaranteed the right to put billboards wherever they want, regardless of how truthful their ads are. Children, more than anyone, are extremely susceptible to the bright colors and catchy slogans of commercials and signs. The more a child is exposed to an advertisement, the more likely he or she will develop some sort of attachment to the product.

Commercials for R-rated movies are not run between Saturday morning cartoons. Budweiser posters are not proudly displayed in the pediatrics section of a hospital. Tobacco companies don't have the right to put large pictures of cigarettes near playgrounds.

In this society, there are rules, and without rules, there's chaos.

Ryan Miller is the Mustang Daily opinion editor.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Mustang DAILY

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"What if I screw up the tides and somebody drowns because of it?"

It's about time for a couple senators to die

The good die first, And they whose hearts are dry as summer dust Burn to the Socket. — Wordsworth, "The Excursion"

Last Saturday, with the Senate split evenly 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans, the two parties announced a power-sharing plan, which will give each some influence over which bills are forwarded by committees to the full Senate.

Therefore, much of the talk and speculation on Capitol Hill and in the media is over the ailing health of the Senate's two oldest Republican members: Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms.

Since each lives in a state with a Democratic governor, if either one dies, the Democratic Party will have a majority in the Senate.

It has become a veritable "Deathwatch 2001."

It's about time.

Strom Thurmond, a mind-boggling 98 years old, is the longest-serving member of the Senate and probably its most conservative member. He's been hospitalized several times in the past few months with various ailments and also has memory problems: He recently claimed in an interview that he was only 81 years old.

Thurmond gained notoriety almost half a century ago when he led Southern Democrats in four states to withdraw from the Democratic Party and form the States Rights Dixiecrat ticket. Thurmond was the party's presidential nominee, and what bound the group together was its "violent opposition to any measure of social and political equality for African Americans." (Hoffman, 1996)

In fact, the major reason the group formed was the Democratic Party's advocacy of military desegregation and civil rights for blacks. In

a resolution largely written by Thurmond, the Dixiecrats condemned any efforts "to undermine the racial integrity and purity of the white and negro races alike." In his fire-and-brimstone acceptance speech, he ranted, "There's not enough troops in the army to force the southern people to break down segregation and admit the Negro race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes and into our churches."

Of course, Thurmond lost the election and the civil rights movement succeeded. Although he has toned down the racist language in the 46 years since he was first elected to the Senate, he has still been a tireless opponent of any legislation that would help minority groups. As Milton said, "Never can true reconciliation grow, / Where wounds of deadly hate have pierc'd so deep."

Jesse Helms, Republican senator from North Carolina, is also in poor health and was recently hospitalized

with pneumonia. A member of the Senate since 1972, Helms chairs the influential Foreign Relations Committee.

Like Thurmond, Helms also has a long history of racist, sexist and homophobic actions (most famously, when he addressed Clinton's nominee for assistant secretary of housing as a "damned lesbian").

Helms is also an ardent isolationist and opponent of the United Nations. Using his position as chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, he has been able to block important legislation relating to international trade and human rights. For example, last Monday President Clinton signed a treaty to create the International Criminal Court, which would try war-crimes suspects. Even though 138 countries have signed it (including Russia, Cambodia and Israel), Helms has predictably vowed to prevent it from being ratified.

He stated that "protecting America's fighting men and women

from this international kangaroo court is one of my highest priorities in the new Congress." (Washington Times, January 1, 2001)

The Helms and Thurmond "Deathwatch" is not just about who will control the Senate; with a majority of 60 needed to break a filibuster, their deaths would probably not have a dramatic effect. More important is what their deaths would signify about our country's past and its future.

Helms and Thurmond are the products of a time when racism and hatred of other minority groups was widespread and accepted. For many Americans, their deaths would be the symbolic end of one of the darkest periods in our country's history.

Although Homer warns us, "It is not right to gloat over the dead," few tears will be shed over their passing.

Jeremy Patrick, University of Nebraska, U-wire.

The Cabinet makes the president

The dawn of the new millennium has passed; President-elect George W. Bush's inauguration date draws near. The transition of presidency takes place following hundreds of meetings with current White House and Congressional members and the ever popular choosing of the Cabinet. Bush has been carefully selecting advisers and secretaries to complete his 2001-2004 administration.

Bush's first cabinet announcement was retired General Colin Powell to be secretary of state.

Commentary

This was no big surprise to anyone, considering Powell served under former President Bush during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Powell has a strong history of excellent leadership and patriotism. He was born and reared in New York City as a son to Jamaican immigrants. He graduated from the City College of New York and gained entrance into the United States Army through ROTC.

In the U.S. Army, Powell served as an officer in the field in such places like Vietnam, Korea and Germany. Serving as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under former President Bush during the war, Powell, along with other high-ranking military officers, including General Norman Schwartzkopf, pushed the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in one of the nation's shortest wars.

General Powell is the kind of person that I would want in almost every political and military position. He is intelligent, honest, serious, caring and, above all, he is this country's best leader. He possesses many qualities that presidents in the past have lacked.

Although current Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the

first female to take the position, has done an outstanding job for President Clinton, General Powell is by far the best candidate for the job.

Hopefully, General Powell will be able to administer peace between Israel and Palestine. He should also be made a saint if he could negotiate with

Afghanistan to surrender international terrorist Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden is responsible for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which claimed the lives of more than 200 people.

President-elect Bush has also announced his choice for attorney general. He chose former Missouri Senator John Ashcroft. Ashcroft graduated from Yale University in 1964 and received his law degree from the University of Chicago three years later. After practicing law for nine years, Ashcroft became the state attorney general for Missouri in 1976.

He later became governor in 1984 and was then elected into the Senate in 1994. Ashcroft ran for re-election into the Senate this past November, but was strangely defeated by Governor Mel Carnahan, who died three weeks before the election. Carnahan's wife will fill the position for her late husband.

Bush's choice has already stirred up criticism from the Democratic Party. John Ashcroft is supposedly known for his strong conservative stance on abortion and lack of support and interest in civil rights and liberties.

Marches led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson have already been organized to stroll down Capitol Hill in protest of the new attorney general. But Ashcroft supporters insist that he is caring and sensitive enough for the powerful position.

Besides, Ashcroft still has to

undergo interviews at the Senate hearing to be confirmed. If enough Democrats decide that he is unfit for the position, they can reject him.

If the Senate does confirm John Ashcroft, he will replace Janet Reno. This is why Bush chose Ashcroft in the first place. Bush wants to take politics out of the attorney general's office and put justice back in.

He believes John Ashcroft is the man to do just that. Other Cabinet appointees include former deputy chief of staff and secretary of transportation under President Bush, Andrew Card, for chief of staff, adviser to Governor Bush on international policy issues; Condoleezza Rice for National Security Council advisor; and Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, for Health and Human Services secretary.

Even though I did not vote for Bush, I still believe that a president is only as good as his advisers. With that in mind, the Bush administration won't be all that bad. With General Colin Powell at the helm of the State Department, we as a nation can rest peacefully about international relations.

Colin Powell is one of the few Republicans that I would vote for in a presidential election. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani would be another. Which reminds me that I am a little upset that Bush did not pick Giuliani for the attorney general position considering that Giuliani helped decrease the Big Apple's murder rate by 70 percent.

The only way we will know for sure that the Bush Cabinet will be good for this country is to wait. That's our only power anyway.

Eric Sprankle, University of Cincinnati, U-wire.

'Politically correct' should be trashed

The new year, century and millennium are here — time to bring out the resolutions. My own resolution, which I always keep, is not to make any resolutions. But I have one to suggest to everyone else: it's long past time to put the meaningless phrase "political correctness" out to pasture.

When I first encountered the term "politically correct" back in the 1970s, it was used by feminists and gay people to make fun of opinions they didn't like. It was a self-congratulatory way of making them-

Commentary

compared to radical wackos who went too far. This was ironic, really, since all the people who used the term would have been considered radical wackos who went too far by most Americans. They were also being defensive: "Hey, I might be a gay man who spends his free time having sex with dozens of other men in bathhouses, but at least I'm not a wild-eyed radical who thinks that men should be allowed to marry each other. Let's not go too far!"

In the 1980s, I noticed liberal straight students disavowing "political correctness" to show how moderate they were. They agreed that racism, sexism and homophobia should be eliminated, but they didn't believe that we should all have to be politically correct.

They were extremely vague about what "politically correct" meant, and couldn't point to anyone who had held up political correctness as a goal.

In the early 1990s, right-wing commentators and activists (who, of course, wanted to impose their own True Political Correctness on American society) discovered the term, and the mainstream media jumped on the bandwagon.

Armed with (mostly fictional) anecdotes of hapless straight white males victimized by black lesbian fanatics, they raised the alarm against the plague of political correctness that threatened to turn American colleges and universities

into hivelike matriarchies. The Right had warned for years that if we gave equal rights to Negroes, before long everybody would be demanding them; it seemed their dire prophecies had come true.

By now, just about everybody is using "political correctness" this way. Even the socialist feminist Barbara Ehrenreich, who lost her slot as a columnist for Time magazine because of her excessive political correctness, relies on the term to put down pacifists, other feminists and any straying progressive who embraces a position she dislikes.

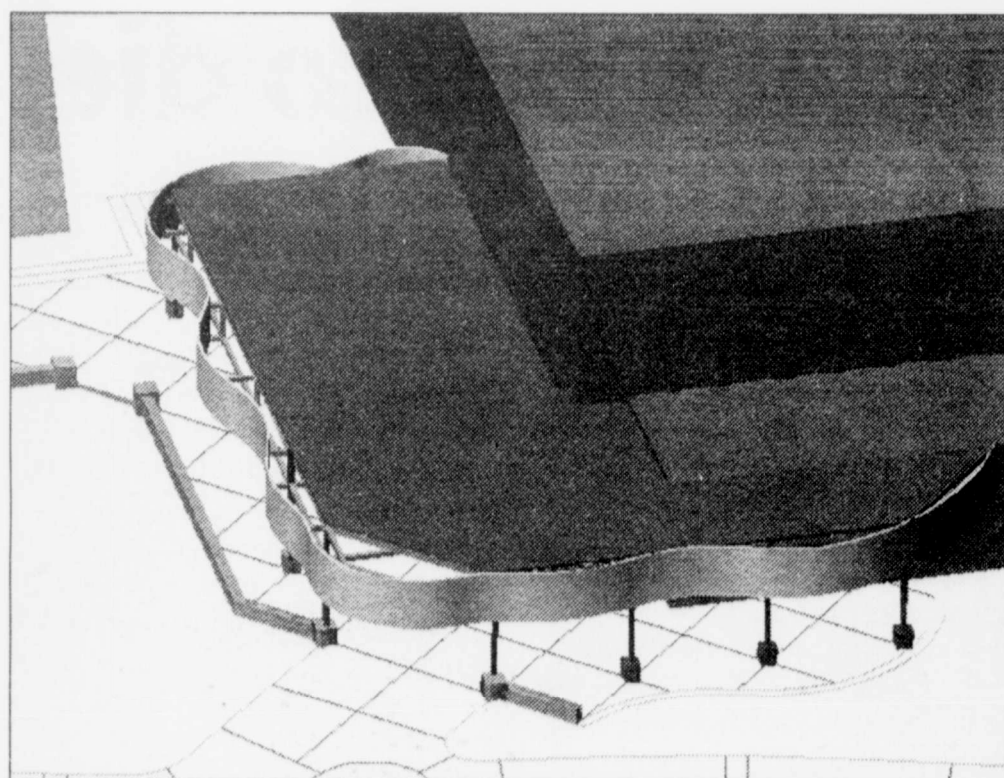
Once you've declared someone to be politically correct, you have established that they are truly politically incorrect, with no further discussion needed. You also get to imagine yourself Politically Incorrect: a bold, independent thinker who goes against the tide, scorning the fads and fancies of the sheeplike many, secure in the knowledge that all right-thinking Americans agree with you.

"Politically correct" is the perfect sound bite, the right-thinking American's equivalent of such venerable Marxist abuse as "enemy of the people," "counterrevolutionary" and "imperialist running dog" — except that it's less imaginative, as a right-thinking American's opinion should be. Nobody knows what it means, but that's part of its beauty: it means you can't argue with it, let alone prove your innocence of the charge.

In my view, using "PC" is a declaration of a person's refusal to engage in serious, reasoned discussion. I don't know or care whether my own beliefs are "politically correct." But I am perfectly happy to be considered an extremist, which puts me in company with such PC wackos as Martin Luther King Jr. who embraced the label of "extremist" in his letter from Birmingham jail.

To paraphrase King, I'd rather be "politically correct" in the cause of justice than be "politically incorrect" in the cause of injustice.

Duncan Mitchel, Indiana University, U-wire.



COURTESY GRAPHIC/FACILITIES PLANNING

This rendering, as seen from the corner of Grand Avenue and Perimeter Road, shows the design of the theater canopy.

THEATER

continued from page 1

changes since then.

"They were supposed to be all done last summer, and because of some design changes, we ended up doing it now," Lampman said.

In the same vicinity is the landscaping of the circular plaza and entry driveway between the PAC and new parking structure.

Doug Overman, assistant director of Facility Services, said that they have all the main irrigation lines in and the plants ordered.

"If the weather holds up, we should be done in mid February," he said.

The project includes both season and foundation plants and shrubs as well as turf in the center area.

Another project that began during the academic break was an evaluation of the campus lighting fixtures. Ed Johnson, campus energy coordinator, said that this audit will allow the university to upgrade the fixtures to be more energy efficient. The renovation will mostly impact interior lighting, but Johnson said some exterior fixtures will also be changed.

"Most of what we are doing is replacing the fluorescent light - going from the standard to energy efficient ones," Johnson said.

He said that the new lights will provide a better-colored light, run cooler and reduce energy use in two areas.

"Not only does it save our lighting energy, but it saves our air conditioning demand," Johnson said.

The energy audit should be done in two weeks, and the retrofit is scheduled to begin immediately after that with a planned completion date of June 1.

The project is being financed by both Cal Poly funds and special moneys from the state in light of the current energy crisis. The state hopes to reduce energy consumption on state property before next summer.

Lowe added that there were many other small-scale maintenance projects during winter break.

about the impact it could have.

"I am very excited about the support the chancellor has given the concept of student involvement," said Shaun Lumachi, CSSA chair, in a CSU press release last month. "I strongly believe that this committee will develop a plan to ensure that student input is included when new policies are developed."

In the same release, CSU Executive Vice Chancellor David Spence agreed that there is a need for recognizing the students.

"Addressing the role of students in policy making is an important issue," he said. "There is nothing more important than effectively serving the needs of our students, and soliciting their input is an invaluable part of that."

puter, a color printer and a quality scanner was approximately \$7,600, but University Police only picked up \$1,300 of that price, Aeilts said.

Social Tech paid for approximately \$3,700 of the cost. The remaining money came from Santa Barbara police agencies, which donated \$1,250, and Santa Barbara United Way University Foundation, which also donated \$1,250.

"It's a way of being prepared for anything," Aeilts said.

TRAK

continued from page 1

for stolen horses," he said. The horses were later recovered and returned to their owners.

TRAK is becoming more widespread across California, Aeilts said. As a result of the Polly Klaas case, Santa Barbara County installed nine systems six months ago, he said.

The price tag on the system, which included the price of the com-

Bush Cabinet pick under scrutiny

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an early test, President-elect Bush must decide whether to stand by his labor secretary-designee, Linda Chavez, in light of revelations that an illegal alien lived with her for a year and did some housework.

How he deals with the political crosscurrents tugging at Chavez and two other conservative Cabinet nominees will tell a lot about Bush's presidential mettle. So far, the Texan has displayed his famous sense of loyalty - with just a hint of the political pragmatism that longtime observers say will ultimately guide his decision.

"She's certainly qualified to be Cabinet secretary," Bush told reporters in Austin, Texas, qualifying the lukewarm endorsement with hedge phrases on her account of events: "from what I've read" and "as far as I can tell."

Advisers said he built himself wiggle room in case Chavez's explanation doesn't pan out after an internal inquiry. And new revelations could surface now that she's under Democratic scrutiny.

"He will want to watch the politics

unfold on this and other controversial nominations before making his move," said University of Texas political scientist Bruce Buchanan.

He noted that Bush stood behind a state health commissioner for a year until the appointee's racially insensitive remarks became a liability late in the presidential campaign.

Chavez, a favorite of social conservatives who were the core of Bush's political operation, provided a room and hundreds or thousands of dollars to an illegal immigrant from Guatemala who did various chores around her house. The situation recalls the "Nannygate" episodes that derailed two of President Clinton's attorney general selections in the early days of his administration.

Bush's advisers say there is a significant difference: Chavez never employed Marta Mercado, they say. She took the woman in and gave her money as an "act of compassion," according to Bush advisers who were careful to note they were relying thus far on her word alone.

Chavez told Bush aides that she did not know Mercado was in the country

illegally until the woman had left her home. However, Mercado told The Washington Post she informed Chavez of her illegal status three months after moving in in late 1991. A friend of Chavez, Abigail Thernstrom, told The New York Times it was her recollection that Chavez was aware that the woman was in the country illegally.

Chavez, like the rest of Bush's top candidates, was asked to provide tax histories for domestic help, but she initially did not mention Mercado, Bush aides said, presumably because she didn't consider the woman an employee.

Bush officials are carefully reviewing FBI interviews with Chavez and Mercado, along with their own discussions with Chavez, to determine whether the nominee has abided by the law and been up front with them.

"We are going to gather a lot of facts before we have much to say," said Bush spokesman Tucker Eskew.

Bush's loyalty has its limits. He won't defend somebody who isn't straight with him, associates say, and he has a history of knowing his political limits.

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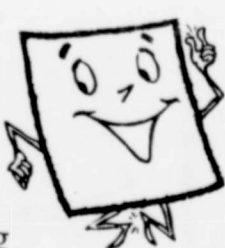
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PITINO

continued from page 8

he had decided to leave. He hugged Paul Pierce as he came out of the game, and spoke afterward as if his mind were made up.

Pitino skipped practice Sunday and asked his wife to join him in Miami to discuss his next move. Although he has been quoted as saying he would like to stay in the NBA, he already has been rumored for college jobs from UNLV to UCLA.

"He looked at it more personally. He's not getting the job done as a coach and he wanted to move on," said Celtics forward Antoine Walker, who also played for Pitino at Kentucky. "He's made a decision

that's best for him and now he's got to move on."

In an interview from Florida, Pitino told WBZ-TV that he had a "major difference" philosophically: "The fundamentals of basketball weren't necessarily getting through to the team."

"I love the guys on this basketball team outside the line," Pitino said. "Between the lines we had differences."

Pitino played at Massachusetts, served as assistant at Hawaii and Syracuse and coached at Boston University and Providence, two programs he took from mediocrity to the NCAA tournament. He spent two seasons with the Knicks, taking them to the playoffs in 1989 for the first time in four years.

ROAD TRIPS

continued from page 8

The sixth-year coach not only follows his players' progress on the floor, but charts their improvements in the classroom. Schneider, like most the university's coaching staffs, keeps log sheets, midterm schedules and course syllabi from every player.

"Academically we are one of the best," Schneider has said time and time again. "One of the premier schools in the country."

And Schneider intends to keep it that way.

"Coach takes pride in graduation," Brown added. "He lets us know every day that grades are more important than basketball. He takes our word for it. And we can't lie, because our grades show if we've been studying."

Brown said the team studies for three hours a day in Mustang Hall, located on the second floor of Mott Gym.

"It's the same for all the different sports up there (in the study hall)," he said. "It's school spirit. You want to see you're school do good. So we want to encourage one another because we're all the home team. It's like we're on the court and we compete for grades. And if we do good, we brag about our test scores like we would if we had a good game."

The men's team hits the road for a

dozen of its 27 games this season. But the mileage will be worth the gas money if they make the most important trip of the year March 8 to 10 and roll to Anaheim for the Big West Tournament.

On Saturday, the Mustangs tip off another road trip, packing their suitcases for UC Riverside before traveling to the University of the Pacific (Stockton) by bus Jan. 17 and Long Beach State via America Airlines on Jan. 19.

"Road trips are fun when you're winning," said Henry, who has become accustomed to studying in hotel rooms across the country. "If you lose they're no fun. That's the big difference, or playing well I should say."

The women's team is currently amid a four-game road stretch. The Lady Mustangs, which hit the road 13 times this season, are also hoping to see more highway miles, setting their odometers for the Big West tournament, which begins in Anaheim March 7.

"It's still cool," said Rowles, who leads the team with 10.7 points a game. "I get to travel all over the country and see places I wouldn't see otherwise, but it can get old. IHOP (International House of Pancakes) breakfast gets to you sometimes and it's nice to sleep in your own bed. But this has been the experience of a lifetime."

Bills' owner fires Phillips as coach

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Exactly a year later, the "Music City Miracle" is still wreaking havoc on the Buffalo Bills.

Wade Phillips was fired for refusing to give up on the special teams coach he hired in the wake of the Jan. 8, 2000, loss to Tennessee that eliminated the Bills from last year's playoffs.

Bills owner Ralph Wilson said Monday he considered the firing of Ronnie Jones, in his first year as spe-

cial teams coach, "imperative for the improvement of our team."

"Buffalo special teams' record was among the worst in the National Football League last season," Wilson said. "I felt we needed a change and that my request was reasonable. ... I did not want to release Wade, but his refusal left me with no option."

Jones was hired during the off-season to replace Bruce DeHaven in the wake of the playoff loss, decided by a

wild and controversial special-teams touchdown. With three seconds left in the game, Tennessee's Frank Wycheck threw an overhand lateral across the field to Kevin Dyson on a kickoff return, and Dyson scampered 75 yards for a 22-16 Titans win. The Bills argued that Wycheck's throw was an illegal forward pass.

This season, the Bills finished 8-8 and, for the first time since the 1997 season, missed the playoffs.

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Women's hoops drops seven of eight Pitino out as Celtics coach

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

After a promising five-game winning streak to start the season, the Cal Poly women's basketball team lost seven of eight games over the break and saw its overall record drop to 6-7.

The team defeated Portland State 49-44 on Dec. 18 for its lone triumph over the break.

Poor shooting was the cause of the Mustangs' recent losses that concluded its non-conference play. Against San Diego State, Cal Poly shot 29.1 percent from the field while allowing the Aztecs to shoot 49 percent from the field.

Idaho State outrebounded Cal Poly 54-31 en route to a 70-43 win over the Mustangs. Cal Poly made only 14 of 50 field goal attempts in the loss. No Mustangs scored in double figures, but forward Katie Paterson led the team with nine points and four rebounds.

Guard Kristy Baker led Cal Poly with 19 points against Air Force last Saturday, but the Mustangs fell 86-68 to the Falcons. With the win, Air Force snapped an eight-game losing streak. Cal Poly battled back from being down 11 points at halftime to a mere three

Women's basketball results over Winter break

Dec. 9	at Pepperdine	64-79
Dec. 13	Santa Clara	61-85
Dec. 16	at Portland	54-78
Dec. 18	at Portland State	49-44
Dec. 21	at San Francisco	63-71
Jan. 2	San Diego State	63-73
Jan. 4	Idaho State	43-70
Jan. 7	at Air Force	68-86

points, but the Falcons countered with a 14-1 run of their own to put the game out of reach.

Forward Caroline Rowles has sat out the last four games due to unspecified medical reasons. Before the injury, she started all nine games for the Mustangs and led the team with 10.7 points per game. The team has also missed her inside presence against Air Force, who outrebounded Cal Poly 37-34.

The team faces starts Big West Conference play at the Thundersome against UC Santa Barbara on Saturday at 7 p.m.



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Forward Courtney Goetz lays a shot off the glass in a game earlier this season at Mott Gym.

BOSTON (AP) — In college and the pros, from Hawaii to the Big East, Rick Pitino always won.

Until he came to Boston.

The master motivator with the magic touch resigned as coach and president of the Boston Celtics on Monday, 3 1/2 seasons after he was brought in to revive a franchise that once had been the NBA's proudest. He forfeited some \$20 million left in his contract.

Pitino's legacy: a 102-146 record and a history of roster churning that left the team strapped under the salary cap and unable to find its groove.

"It has been a great privilege to coach the greatest basketball tradition in sports," Pitino said in a statement released by the team. "I wish we could have accomplished more between the lines, but I am proud with the efforts of my staff and players."

► Pitino had a record of 102-146.
► He coached the team for three and a half seasons.

Jim O'Brien, Pitino's longtime assistant, was appointed interim coach, starting with Monday night's game against the Portland Trail Blazers, the top team in the Western Conference.

O'Brien was coach at Wheeling Jesuit College from 1982-87 and at Dayton from 1989-94, leading the Flyers to a 22-10 record and an NCAA berth in his first season. He had been a Pitino assistant at Kentucky and with the New York Knicks.

"He's a guy I have been with a long time," O'Brien said after Monday's shootaround. "It did not end the way we had come into the franchise hoping it would."

"There's nobody more disappointed with Rick leaving than I am. That being said, you don't have too much time in the NBA to get too up or too down. We have to get on with life. Rick wants us to get on with life."

Pitino had hinted since the end of last season that he would leave if the team did not improve in his fourth season. But the tone of his comments became more immediate as the Celtics stumbled to a 12-22 record, losing 11 of their last 14 games.

On Saturday night, it became clear

Road trips are mixed blessings for students

Editor's note: This is the first in a series about Cal Poly student-athletes and their lives on and off the court.

By Brian Milne

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Bryan Brown hasn't seen much action for the Cal Poly men's basketball team this season.

The 6-foot-3-inch, 190-pound guard from Benecia has only played a combined 10 minutes, tallying four points in five games.

Nonetheless, the first-year walk-on is as much a part of the Cal Poly men's basketball team as the club's marquee ballers.

His days are spent working with teammates, whether it's on the court, in the weight room or in the classroom. And he enjoys every minute of it.

Especially when it's time to hit the road.

"You have fun on the road because you're not at home and you get to experience something new," Brown said. "The team gets closer.

Everybody on the team hangs out in the hotel and we play cards and stuff. When you're away from it all, we talk better, like when we're on the court."

Red-shirt sophomore Caroline Rowles, who came to San Luis Obispo from Vancouver, Canada, three years ago, couldn't agree more.

"When you're a freshman everything's a novelty. You get to eat out at all the best restaurants, stay in the best hotels and see the different cities," Rowles said Dec. 21 during a phone interview from the Pickwick Hotel in San Francisco, prior to the Mustangs' 71-63 loss to the Lady Dons.

But it's not always fun and games on the road.

As a freshman, hopping on a plane and leaving school work behind might be fun, but as the years pass by and the textbook pages turn, life on the road can be tough.

Just ask junior forward David Henry.

"Your first couple times (on the road) as a freshman are fun," said Henry, originally from Santa Rosa.

"It's hard trying to take 12 units of college courses and go on a road trip. You don't want to, but you have to take your books and study on the road when you'd rather be playing cards or sleeping."

"You look forward to riding on a plane and it's a different experience. But after your third year it's just like you want to get the flight over with."

And as graduation grows nearer and the upper division courses pile up in the heat of the Big West, the night before a crucial midterm can be as stressful as the eve of facing conference rival UCSB at the infamous Thunderdome.

"It's hard trying to take 12 units of college courses and go on a road trip," added the lanky 6-foot-8-inch, 200-pound journalism junior. "You don't want to, but you have to take your books and study on the road when you'd rather be playing cards or sleeping. The last thing you want to do is school work. But you have a responsi-

David Henry
men's basketball forward

bility and you have to take care of business."

Henry said being a student-athlete is toughest on the newcomers, when their No. 1 goal is vying for playing time.

"Luckily, coach asks us everyday if we need help, a study partner or an adviser or something," Brown said of head coach Jeff Schneider.

"They keep a good watch," Brown explained. "If we have midterms he might give us an easy practice so we can go home and study. If we don't get good grades, we don't play. It's as simple as that. We have something to study for because people are watching and pushing us."

see ROAD TRIPS, page 7

see PITINO, page 7

Sports Trivia

Yesterday's Answer:

Dominique Wilkins led the NBA in scoring in 1986 with a 30.3 points per game average.

No one submitted the right answer.

Today's Question:

Who was the first player in NFL history to score 2,000 points?

Please submit sports trivia answer to: sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu
Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

Scores

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Utah State 82
Cal Poly 69

Boise State 83
Cal Poly 79

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

San Diego State 73
Cal Poly 63

Idaho State 70
Cal Poly 43

Briefs

Damon traded to Athletics

OAKLAND (AP) — Outfielders Johnny Damon and Ben Grieve and reliever Roberto Hernandez were the principal players dealt Monday in a nine-player trade involving the Kansas City Royals, Oakland Athletics and Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The trade sent Damon from the Royals to Oakland, moved Grieve from the Athletics to Tampa Bay and sent Hernandez from the Devil Rays to the Royals.

Schedule

FRIDAY

- Wrestling vs. Fresno State
 - in Mott Gym
 - at 7 p.m.
- Swimming vs. University of Pacific
 - at Mott Pool
 - at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Men's basketball vs. UC Riverside
 - at Riverside
 - at 7 p.m.
- Women's basketball vs. UCSB
 - at Santa Barbara
 - at 7 p.m.